

From: "Victoria Wikle" <VictoriaWikle@usa.net>
To: <lcllyde@waterboards.ca.gov>
CC: "brendarrwpc@earthlink.net" <BrendaRRWPC@earthlink.net>
Date: 8/6/2005 5:57 PM
Subject: Incidental runoff regualtions

The policy that allows no discharges in the summer needs to be continued for the health of the watershed, the environment, the people who use the water for recreation and our tourist based economy. The discharges in the winter also need attention.

There is a growing Ludwigia problem in the main stem of the river that doesn't seem to have the attention it deserves. The experts thought that the patches of Ludwigia would be washed away by high winter flows, but the reality is that only some of the plant is dislodged while much of the roots remain to grow again the following summer, thus expanding the size and range of the patch.

The problem is small now, the way it was initially in the Laguna, but each year the patches of Ludwigia are larger than they were the year before. If the nutrient bearing discharges are allowed in the summer months, one day we would need to consider spraying the river to remove the treat of West Nile Virus just as they are now doing in the Laguna. This needs serious attention before it gets out of hand. The people trying to deal with the Ludwigia in the Laguna say it would have been much easier to deal with if they hadn't waited.

The water quality board needs to take this weed invasion seriously which means looking at nutrient loads in the river all year round and nutrients that settle to the bottom creating good habitat for Ludwigia. As you know Lugwigia not only provides habitat for mosquitoes, it also deprives fish of oxygen. Ludwigia may look benign, even pretty with its bright green leaves and yellow flowers, yet this nasty weed could ruin the river for most of its inhabitants.

Victoria Wikle
Villa Grande
865-2474